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Necrology.

MEMOIR OF ALLEN Y. MOORE, M. D.

BY C. M. VORCE, F. R. M. S.

Allen Y. Moore, one of the youngest and best known members of this society, was born at San Diego, California, on the 12th day July, 1860. His father, Col. Orlando H. Moore, now on the army retired list, was then a lieutenant in the Sixth U. S. Infantry, and stationed at San Diego, his quarters being in the old town at the head of the beautiful day of San Diego, and about four miles from the present town of that name. There is an old adobe house of Spanish construction, with walls three feet thick and rooms only high enough for an ordinary man to stand upright within them, the subject of this memoir was born into a life destined to be fitful, brief and brilliant beyond that of most men of his time. The first seventeen years of his life were passed in roving and unsettled wandering, and were destitute not only of almost all the advantages, but nearly all of the comforts of the life of the ordinary American boy of that period. His opportunities were far less than those of the farmers's boy or the mechanic's son, yet, when cut down by the inexorable hand of death at the early age of twenty seven years, his was a well-known name in scientific literature, and his abilities were recognized by a large proportion of the learned men of the two hemispheres.

That one whose early years were deprived of those advantages of schooling and association with minds of trained intellectuallity which are ordinarily deemed essential to rapid mental development and thorough accomplishment in any branch of learning, should, in so few years and so early life, have placed himself among the leading minds in any specialty or direction of thought, is so far unusual that it seems worth our while to look into the circumstances which surrounded the youth and life of this brilliant young man, and endeavor to trace out the causes and influences to which he owed so phenomenal a success.

As before said, his early life was an unsettled one. About one year after Allen's birth his father was ordered to the east in consequence of the breaking out of the civil war. The family moved from point to point in the South until 1868, when Col. Moore was ordered to the Indian territory, where he was stationed at various posts until the spring of 1873, when he was ordered to Louisville, Kentucky, whither he brought his family, and here, for the first time, the boy Allen, now thirteen years old, had the opportunity of attending a regular school and mingling with other children. Up to this time and to some extent afterwards, his tuition was received from private tutors, to the best advantage that Col. Moore was able to obtain in the isolated places where much of the time was passed. Only a year was spent in Louisville, however, and in May, 1874, Col Moore was ordered to Fort Buford, Dakota. At this and other frontier posts the roving life was continued for about a year more, when Mrs. Moore was compelled by failing health to seek a milder climate, and settled with her children in Coldwater, Michigan.

In the Centennial summer of 1876 the family visited Philadelphia and other places, but Mrs. Moore's health still failing, she removed with her children to California in June, 1877, and settled in Tulare, where she died August, 1878. After his mother's death, Allen returned to Coldwater, where he remained, enjoying such school facilities as were there afforded, for a little over a year. In the fall of 1879 he entered the Cleveland Homœopathic Hospital College, where he graduated with credit in the spring of 1881, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

While living in Tulare he began the correspondence and exchange of slides which ultimately made him so well and widely known to many who never personally met him. I have in my cabinet a slide received from him in August, 1877, accompanied by an request for exchange; the mount appearing to have been made in February of that year. The object is the flea of the cat, very well prepared and very neatly mounted between two covers cemented over a central hole in a wooden slip. This was the beginning of a correspondence which was continued at intervals until the Detroit meeting of the society in 1880, where I was approached by a boyish looking stranger, who called me by name and introduced himself as "your boy correspondent, Allen Y. Moore." I was greatly surprised at his youth, for although he was no mere boy, I had formed from correspondence with him and from his writings in the microscopical journals, the idea that he was a much older person. This was the beginning of a friendship between us which was never interrupted nor marred by a disagreement other than in matters of opinion.

It may well be supposed that the study of microscopy, which formed part of the course of study at the college, was peculiarly attractive to Allen and received his enthusiastic attention, and as it was pursued under the teachings Prof. J. Edwards Smith, who then held the chair of Microscopy and Histology in that institution, we can readily understand how the combined ability of teacher and pupil resulted in Dr. Moore's very rapid advancement and thorough mastery of the art, in which he was indeed no novice when he entered college. Almost immediately on graduating, Dr. Moore was given the chair of Microscopy and Histology in the college, on the resignation of Prof. Smith, and this position he held during the remainder of his life, and fulfilled its duties with eminent ability and success.

The meeting of this society at Detroit, at which time Dr. Moore became a member, was an important epoch in his life. There for the first time he met upon somewhat equal terms the opticians and skilled microscopists, from whom he quickly acquired a fund of knowledge that he added to unceasingly from that day foward.

I believe Dr. Moore attended every succeeding meeting of the society and was always to be found where the best optical work of microscopy was displayed. He had studied the optics of the microscope exhaustively in all aspects, and was in fact a thorough theoretical optician, familiar with all the causes and effects which enter into the result of the use of the best modern objectives, whether they related to the construction of the objective itself, the conditions under which it is used, or the nature and mounting of the object. He studied the correction of objectives not from the side of the effect but from the side of the cause, hence he never moved the adjusting collar without knowing not only exactly why he would move it, but in what direction it should be moved, and what the result would be. The nature and effect of immersion media, and of mounting media, were studied by him in the same manner, and the methods of illumination with equal thoroughness. In this direction were pointed his studies in the silver plating of rulings and diatoms. He also made many experiments in the composition of mounting media of high refractive index, experimenting particularly with various metalloids, he produced independently and at about the same time as Prof. H. L. Smith, the sulphide of arsenic medium of 2.48 index, and had prepared a medium less highly colored which he believed would prove valuable, but the formula for which has not been preserved.

It was while living at Coldwater, in the year 1876, that Dr. Moore made his first appearance in the field of Microscopical literature, in a communication to the *American Journal of Microscopy*, on the preparation of silver crystals, which appears in the March number of that year. At the time of writing that article he was not yet sixteen years of age, but I feel certain that no person to whom the author was unknown would, on reading that article, believe that it was written by so young a person. From that time forward he was a frequent contributor to the pages of the microscopical journals published in this country. A certain spice of fun in his disposition caused him to publish some of his articles over the *non de plume* of "Nelly A. Romeo," an anagram of the letters of his name.

After being seated in the chair of Microscopy and Histology at the college, Dr. Moore determined to pursue the work of Microscopical Analysis as a business, instead of entering into general practice. For some time before he graduated he had been engaged in Microscopical Analysis for physicians in active practice, devoting especial attention to urinary analysis, tumors, etc. In this work he was rapidly gaining prominence, and at the time of his death had already acquired a patronage extending throughout Ohio and into the adjoining states. Personally, I have little doubt that had Dr. Moore been spared a few years longer, and especially had he been less modest and unassuming and possessed more of that faculty which even physicians are occasionally blessed with, known as blowing his own horn, he would have earned a national reputation as an expert in microscopical analysis and diagnosis, especially in Histology and Pathology.

Dr. Moore was married at Coldwater, in December, 1885, to Miss Gertrude Neal, of that place, who evinced a more than wifely interest in his professional work and soon became so expert that she aided him largely in his work, both in analysis and in the preparation of slides. Not a few of the slides sent out by Dr. Moore were the work of her fair hands.

The skill which Dr. Moore possessed in all manipulative processes is too well known to the members of this society to require mention, his slides exhibiting simple and multiple electric arcs, microscopical geissler tubes, silver-plated and gold-plated diatoms and rulings, double stained blood discs, stained diatoms, crystals of metals, tube casts, and various other objects, such as whole insects, etc., are familiar to most microscopists. In the optics of the microscope Dr. Moore took the greatest interest. He was making great use of the micro-spectroscope, and had become expert in its use. He had tested for himself the Wenham principle of adding a supernumerary front lens to an objective, so as to increase both the power and angular aperture of the lens, and had thus converted a $\frac{1}{2}$ into a $\frac{1}{6}$ objective. His last work in this line was the elaboration of the formula for a concave lens of excessively minute radius, which was to be applied to the front of an objective and filled with a fluid of a refractive index which should, while harmonizing with the corrections of the objective, yet materially increase its aperture, and consequently its power of resolution. He had given an order for the construction of one of these minute lenses to Messrs. H. R. Spencer & Co., but I believe the work had not been commenced at the time of his death. Some experiments made by Dr. Moore appeared to demonstrate that this method of increasing the aperture of objectives was entirely feasible where sufficient working distance was present in the first place.

Although he had inherited a constitution far from robust, which the privations and hardships of his youth had not served to strengthen, Dr. Moore, perhaps on account of his army training, had always an almost utter disregard of any care for his health, and seemed to fear no exposure to either heat, cold or wet. He never seemed to suffer from these exposures, but his apparent recklessness as to his health caused much uneasiness to his friends, who feared to see him a victim to consumption. This was not to be, but an equally fatal, though unlooked for, result was in store. On the 8th day of April, 1887, he was suddenly taken ill, and although he would not at first believe that his illness required the attendance of a physician, it speedily became apparent that he was seriously ailing and medical aid was summoned; but despite all that the best medical skill could do he rapidly sank, and on the 16th day of April he breathed his last, his painful illness having lasted just one week.

With all his abilities and acquirements, of which he could not himself be ignorant, Dr. Moore was the personification of modesty. He was so thorough in all matters that he was always sure of the position he took upon any question, and expressed his views clearly and boldly when they were challenged, but he never obtruded his own opinion unsought or officiously, and I do not believe a boastful or conceited expression was ever heard from his lips. His loss is one long to be mourned and his place in the front rank of microscopists will not soon be filled.

MYRON C. DAVIS.

Born in Rutland, Massachusetts, March 4th, 1847; died January 18th, 1887, at Santiago, Cuba. Mr. Davis was member of the Iron City Microscopical Society, and became a member of the Chautauqua meeting of the American Society of Microscopists. He was a machinist by trade, but, since 1876, gave his chief attention to the mining of manganese ore in which he became an enthusiastic and accomplished master. At the time of his death, it is probable that there was not a locality in the country in which manganese had been found or was supposed to exist with which he was not conversant. He had gone from his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Cuba to examine, with a view to opening some manganese mines and was stricken with yellow fever. Though having little time for microscopy, he took an active interest in all matters connected with the local society, and had his life been spared would have proved himself an efficient and useful member of the national organization.